

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03860 101938Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01 IO-13 ADP-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 M-03 SY-10 A-01 EB-11

SCA-01 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /200 W

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R 101755Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8058

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 3860

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS

SUBJECT: TERRORISM: POSSIBLE CONVENTION ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES

REF: MEYER-DEPAUW LETTER OF APRIL 16

1. SUMMARY: GOB SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING PRESENTING TO US DRAFT CONVENTION ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES. CONVENTION WOULD MAKE TAKING OF HOSTAGES IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, AT ANY TIME, FOR ANY MOTIVE, "INTERNATIONAL INFRACTION." FONOFF REQUESTS ANY DRAFT WORDING DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO SUGGEST AS WELL AS COMMENTS ON TWO DRAFT WORKING DOCUMENTS WHICH BEING POUCHED. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPAUW, COORDINATOR FOR PROBLEMS OF TERRORISM IN BELGIAN FONOFF, ON JULY 9 GAVE EMBOFF COPY OF DRAFT AIDE MEMOIRE ON

BELGIAN PROPOSAL FOR CONVENTION ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES AND DRAFT INSTRUCTION ON CONVENTION TO BELGIAN US MISSION. TWO DOCUMENTS WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH DIRGEN POLITICAL AFFAIRS DAVIGNON NEXT WEEK BEFORE BEING PUT INTO FINAL FORM. DEPAUW ASKED WHETHER USG HAD DRAFT LANGUAGE IT WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST TO GOB FOR PROPOSED CONVENTION AND REQUESTED ANY COMMENTS AMBASSADOR MEYER IN S/CCT MIGHT HAVE ON TWO BELGIAN DRAFT DOCUMENTS. DEPAUW DID

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 03860 101938Z

NOT PROVIDE COPY OF DRAFT CONVENTION, WHICH PRESUMABLY NOT YET

COMPLETED.

3. AIDE MEMOIRE PROPOSES INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION WHICH WOULD MAKE TAKING OF HOSTAGES, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, "INTERNATIONAL INFRACTION" IN TIME OF WAR OR PEACE. DRAFT INSTRUCTION TO UN DELEGATION NOTES THAT CONVENTION IS PROPOSED IN EXPECTATION THAT DISCUSSION ON TERRORISM AT UN WILL BE UNSUCCESSFUL, THEN MAKES FOLLOWING POINTS. BY FOCUSING ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, CONVENTION WILL AFFECT SOME ACTS OF TERRORISM ENDANGERING INNOCENT PEOPLE. DIFFICULTIES OF DEFINING TERRORISM WILL BE AVOIDED, AND COUNTRIES RELUCTANT TO COLLABORATE IN SEARCH FOR SOLUTION TO TERRORISM WILL BE PUT IN LESS TENABLE POSITION. TAKING HOSTAGES IN TIME OF WAR ALREADY COVERED BY GENEVA CONVENTIONS. TAKING THEM FOR RANSOM COVERED BY COMMON LAW. PROPOSED CONVENTION, THEREFORE, IN EFFECT WOULD OUTLAW TAKING OF HOSTAGES IN PEACE TIME FOR POLITICAL ENDS. WITH VIEW TO DEPOLITICIZING ISSUE, INSTRUCTION NOTES THAT AIDE MEMOIRE MAKES NO REFERENCE TO TERRORISM AND THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT UN NOT CONSIDER QUESTION OF HOSTAGES UNDER HEADING OF TERRORISM.

4. EMBOFF AGREED THAT CONVENTION ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES COULD BE USEFUL ADDITION TO INTERNATIONAL LAW. HOWEVER, HE RECALLED US VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF TIMING OF ANY SUCH PROPOSAL, POINTING OUT THAT MAIN EFFORT SHOULD NOW BE ON CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS AND THAT PREMATURE PRESENTATION OF CONVENTION ON HOSTAGES MIGHT DIVERT ATTENTION OR SUPPORT FROM CPD. DEPAUW AGREED WITH THESE OBSERVATIONS AND SAID THAT BELIAN US MISSION HAD TAKEN SIMILAR POSITION. DAVIGNON, HOWEVER, HAD DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH CONVENTION OF HOSTAGES. DEPAUW SAID HE WOULD RENEW WITH DAVIGNON ARGUMENTS FOR ADVISABILITY OF POSSIBLY POSTPONING CONVENTION BUT EXPECTED THAT GOB WOULD PUSH AHEAD.

5. COPIES OF DRAFT AIDE MEMOIRE AND INSTRUCTION TO UN DELEGATION BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT, S/CCT.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRUSSE03860
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS STRAUZ-HUPE
Errors: N/A
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